



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
Rhode Island Department of Human Services
Office of the Director

Courtney E. Hawkins, Director
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August 22, 2019

Bonnie Brathwaite, Director
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Northeast Region
10 Causeway Street
Boston, MA 02222

RE: RI Waiver Request 2150035 – ABAWD time limits

Dear Ms. Brathwaite:

As you are aware, on May 3, 2019, the Rhode Island (RI) Department of Human Services (DHS) submitted its request to modify and extend waiver serial number 2150035, to continue waiving 13 of the 39 communities in RI from the Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) time limits starting on September 1, 2019 and continuing through August 30, 2020 due to the continued high unemployment rates in those areas. To date, RI has not received a decision on its request. **We respectfully ask for timely approval of the waiver request on or before Friday, August 23, 2019, so that we may proceed with system implementation of these changes.**

RI currently waives the three-month ABAWD time limit for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients in 26 of our 39 communities. Due to economic improvements, half of those communities are no longer eligible for the ABAWD waiver. As such, as of September 1, 2019, SNAP recipients living in 13 of the currently 26 waived communities will start becoming subject to the three-month ABAWD time limit unless they meet another exemption or fulfill the work requirements. For RI to correctly track eligibility and provide the proper issuances, we need to reprogram our integrated eligibility system to capture the change to the ABAWD waiver area. As of Friday, August 23rd, we will have one week left to deploy the updates into the system.

We respectfully ask for a decision on our waiver modification and extension at your very earliest convenience. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Courtney E. Hawkins".

Courtney E. Hawkins, Director
RI Department of Human Services